

IN THE CLAIMS:

20. (once amended) The process cheese base [method] of claim 19, wherein the period of time for mixing is about 10 to about 30 minutes.

21. (once amended) The process cheese base [method] of claim 20, wherein the mixed product is cooled to a temperature ranging from about 35 to about 55°F.

22. (once amended) The process cheese base [method] of claim 21, wherein the concentrated milk powders range from about 30 to about 55 percent.

23. (once amended) The process cheese base [method] of claim 22, wherein the sodium chloride ranges from about 1.5 to about 2.0 percent.

24. (once amended) The process cheese base [method] of claim 23, wherein the milk fat ranges from about 15 to about 36 percent.

25. (once amended) The process cheese base [method] of claim 24, wherein the water ranges from about 32 to about 34 percent.

26. (once amended) The process cheese base [method] of claim 25, wherein the concentrated milk powders are non-fat dry milk, whey powders, casein, or milk protein powders.

27. (once amended) The process cheese base [method] of claim 26, wherein the milk fat is cream, dried sweet cream, anhydrous milk fat, concentrated milk fat, or mixtures thereof.

28. (once amended) The process cheese base [method] of claim 27, wherein the edible acid ranges from about 0.5 to about 2.0 percent.

29. (once amended) The process cheese base [method] of claim 28, wherein the edible acid is lactic acid.

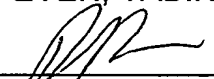
30. (once amended) The process cheese base [method] of claim 29, wherein the preservative ranges from about 0.15 to about 0.18 percent.

31. (once amended) The process cheese base [method] of claim 30, wherein the preservative is sorbic acid.

32. (once amended) The process cheese base [method] of claim 31, wherein the process cheese base has a fat content ranging from about 10 to about 40 percent.

Respectfully submitted

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